BOOK REVIEW

AKIZUKI Toshiyuki, *Nihon hokuhen no tanken to chizu no rekishi* (*A History of the Exploration and Cartography of the Northwest Pacific*) (Hokkaido: Hokkaido University Press, 1999). 405 pp. + 44 pp. (ISBN 4-8329-6001-6)

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the area north of Japan, or the northwestern Pacific area, with the exception of the polar regions, was the last part of the earth's surface, the configuration of which remained unknown on world maps. Early Japanese explorers and cartographers made great contributions towards the filling up of those blank spaces on world maps, the explorations of Mamiya Rinzo, the cartographic surveys of Ino Tadataka and the compilation of the map of Japan and surroundings by Takahashi Kageyasu in 1809 being notable examples. Work to trace the process of the filling up of the blank spots on the basis of old maps and written documents had already been initiated before World War II by Fujita Motoharu, but a full-scale examination of the problem was conducted by certain other scholars such as Takakura Shin-ichiro and Funakoshi Akio. Akizuki's new book constitutes the synthesis of all past studies on the problem, and at the same time, contributes to a great advancement in current studies on the problem, and in this sense is to be considered a classic work to which all interested students, now and in future, would do well to have recourse. After graduating in history in Tokyo, the author worked for forty years, first as librarian and in his last years as lecturer, at Hokkaido University, which was, and still is, in possession of a great many relevant maps and documents, and from early on published numerous papers on the problem, referring to Japanese, Chinese, Russian and all other available Western source materials.

In this book Akizuki begins his analysis with an examination of a pictorial map of the Matsumae fiefdom at the beginning of the seventeenth century and the map of Japan and Yezo of 1621 made by Fra Angelis, a Jesuit missionary. Akizuki attributes the subsequent confusion, which continued up to the end of the eighteenth century, regarding cartographic knowledge of the Yezo area to the travels of M.G.Vries of the Netherlands in 1643. The map made on the basis

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of Vries' navigations in which Yezo (Hokkaido) was connected to Sakhalin continued to maintain its stand for more than 140 years as the only authoritative map based on an actual survey of the area.

At the end of the seventeenth century, the Russians began to explore Kamchatka, the Aleutians and the Kuriles; as a result of the Russian surveys, the Russian Academy atlas denied the existence of the large land mass of Yezo, conjuring up in its stead a vast area of open sea scattered with small islands. Akizuki refers to this situation, based on the Russian cartographic materials, as the second cartographic confusion brought about in the area. Besides the meticulous examination of Russian source materials, another of Akizuki's important contributions was the examination of the mouth of the River Amur as depicted on the so-called Kang-xi maps of China. The Kang-xi maps had already been examined by Funakoshi from the viewpoint of their indirect influence on Japanese cartography through Russian, English, French and Dutch maps and of the direct acceptance of the Kang-xi maps in Japan in the nineteenth century. While Funakoshi's interests consisted, however, in the history of Japanese cartography, Akizuki's original contribution consisted in the fact that his examinations were more critical regarding source materials and focused concretely on the influence of the Kang-xi maps on Russian and French map-making.

In the second half of the eighteenth century when the Tokugawa Shogunate and the Matsumae fiefdom government began to direct their attention to the area, it was mainly in the interest of the defence of the northern territory. The first thing they concentrated on was the collection and examination of European maps, including those of Russia, made on the basis of the reports of European navigators. In this respect, Akizuki remarks the contribution of Yamada Zosai. It was Takahashi Kageyasu who identified Karafuto, as the Sakhalin of European maps was called by the Japanese; but without the work of Yamada, Takahashi Kageyasu's epoch-making contribution would not have been made possible.

Where the descriptions of the book now under review are concerned, they amount to a survey of Hokkaido and the Kuriles of the early Meiji period; but the author's main theme and main contribution consist of the convincing demonstration of the process whereby the long-existing cartographical blanks came to be filled in by West European, Russian and also Japanese explorers and map-makers, taking into account, furthermore, the mutual influences those

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explorers and map-makers exerted on one another. In this work of Akizuki, the main source materials are cartographical ones, the written documents pertaining to exploration and surveys being utilized as complementary material. A thorough examination of the latter material and its sources would require a wide-ranging study of a huge amount of documents stored in the archives of many countries, a task that awaits future researchers. The book is thick and rewarding to the reader, and the author clearly targeted not just a limited number of researchers, but also readers at large. There are numerous clear and detailed biographical and terminological footnotes which are in themselves invaluable contributions on the part of the author, but which also facilitate the understanding of the general reader. The well-worked-out descriptions are comparable in style to the solving of riddles and the general reader can read the whole work as a dramatic story. Naturally, Akizuki's work owes much to the works accumulated over the past by Japanese and foreign researchers which are listed in the exhaustive bibliography at the end of the volume. Perhaps in order to facilitate the understanding of the general public, intricate bibliographical notes have been avoided, so we cannot know which works the author specifically relied on when composing one or other of his descriptions. In a certain sense scientific precision has been sacrificed to make things easier for the general reader, but this reviewer does not think that this has damaged the academic value of the book as a whole.

At the end of the book there are an English summary and English table of contents which, apart from their usefulness, demonstrate the author's confidence regarding the international value of his contributions.

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Akiyoshi NAKAYAMA & Katsuhiko MATSUKAWA (eds.), *Yoropashi Kenkyu no Shin-chihei: Porando karano Manazashi (New Horizons of Historical Studies on Europe: The View from Poland)*, (Shouwado, Kyoto, 2000), 367 pp.

It is indeed good news for Japanese students who are involved in historical studies on Poland and the related areas of Europe that this book has been